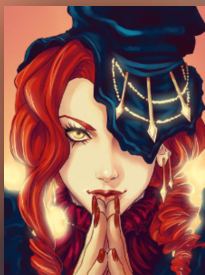




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The Diaries of the Hatter's Daughter



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Chapter 1 by Alice Marie Bride

Entry One

"Ello love." I miss his sweet voice. If I were to ever learn anything from my deranged father, it was to respect madness- insanity. I miss him terribly, we all do. No one is quite sure how or why it happened, but we found him lying face down at his tea table. The cup was still warm. The past is the past, and no one can change it. Father says he once met Time, but I still don't believe him. I've never known my mother, or rather, if I even have one. I've never asked, and he's never offered. Maybe it's better that way. But I fear I am growing as mad as he was. I see things that should be best left unseen, I hear things that should not exist. And so, I stand within a crowd of the sane, feeling utterly, bitterly, alone. Does this mean I am mad? As mad as a woman could be, I suppose~

Chapter 2 by SaintSayaka

Entry #2

I saw him today

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Father, I mean,

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He was sitting at the table, face down again, but this time, his cup was cold. I looked around quickly, hoping someone would come about and prove my delusion true or false, but no such vindication came. I would have to figure that bit out on my own. So I began shaking his shoulder, every so slightly, hoping that my hand would simply go through and prove that I was talking to an illusion. To my shock and slight disappointment, it did not. He stirred slightly, and I withdrew. But he did not get up.

Quietly, I walked away into the woods.

Chapter 3 by Tim Starry



I walk for some time, mindlessly navigating between trees and bushes. Thinking about what I had seen.

Then that stupid smile appeared floating in the air. "He's not the man he used to be," whispered the disembodied voice. I'm beginning to dislike that cat.

"Show yourself," I yell. "I'm in no mood for your games."

"Relax," purred the cat. "I have just what you need. One pill to make you small and one to make you..."

Chapter 4 by Raven Larkin



He smiled, that hideously insane smile, yet I found it alluring. If I tried it, what higher form of insanity would I find hiding amongst the perfect pearly whites?

"Sane" He finished, chuckling at the sudden change, from entranced to wary, my body undertook.

"Why would you offer such a thing? What have you to gain from my height or sanity?" I sneered, contemplating a possible life free from my maddening mind.

Chapter 5 by TraderVic12



"Ellio love," I heard a different voice, this one so dear and so dearly missed.

I looked around seeing no one at all, but I heard it.

"No, stop!"

I looked down at a small toad, so tiny waving it's hands at me.

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"Come!" asked my father, a man two inches tall. "Have tea with me."

"Give me the first pill" I said to the cat, and with a smile as insane as it always was, the cat floated to me and there, on ma hand, was the pill.

I took it in an instance, and as suddenly as a summer storm hits, the forest all around me started to grow. Soon the trees were giants, and the grass was as trees, and each grain of sand turned into a stone. And there was my father, between those stones, lying face down at his tea table. The cup was still warm.

Chapter 6 by ☆Holly☆



I was terrified, what was going on? Was my father dead? Or alive?

I heard the cat laughing, I couldn't tell if it was in an evil way or a funny way? But clearly it was a funny way, what is there to be evil about?

I ran over to my father, he wasn't moving. I took the cup and smashed it. I heard whispering from all around, I didn't like it.

My father sat up, no emotion on his face.

"Father! Are you alright?" I asked.

No response.

"Father! Please!"

Still no response.

Suddenly, my father disappeared into a cloud of sparkles and floated away. I was terrified, what was going to happen?

I was pushed to the ground by someone. I turned, no one was there.

I saw darkness

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Chapter 7 by TraderVic12

And the darkness saw me

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The last sparkle hit the ground and turned into a dark hooded figure. There was something peculiar about it, it had essence and vigor.

The darkness looked down on me, it's eye piercing as a blade. It's the right time to remember the promise I once made to my dad, about finding my mother, and thinking how dissapointed and frustrated he'd be if I died now.

Over my head floated a catless smile of insanity and I remembered the last choice the cat gave. I had clarity.

Chapter 8 by Lily



I asked for the second pill. The cat purred and let it fall to my feet. But it was twice my size - there was no way I could take it.

The hooded figure didn't move. It just stared at me, at everything I did. I think it was waiting. So I approached the golden pill laying on the ground. It did look like solid gold. And as I touched it, I realised it was gold indeed. And now it didn't look like a pill at all.

It changed. I was looking at a mirror. But it didn't show my reflection, no. There were countless images in it, from past, present and future. I saw my dad, I saw him as a child, as a teenager, and all his adventures, and then one picture remained behind the glass. There he was, smiling, and here she was, smiling even more brightly. Her red hair fell over her shoulders and back and her green eyes were sparkling with happiness. She was wearing a long, yellow dress and a matching hat - I recognised it instantly as my father's favourite.

They were looking at me, waving and mouthing the same words over and over again: *"We love you, Alice!"*

And then, I found myself sitting at a table, a cup of warm tea in front of me, my dad, face down, on the seat near me and the hooded figure still staring. And we had a tea party that was going to last forever.

the end

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